

PTSD (A) in designated PTSD programs, (B) in inpatient psychiatric programs and outpatient mental health programs other than designated PTSD programs, and (C) in readjustment counseling programs of the Department.

“(4) The Special Committee shall also make recommendations to the Under Secretary for Health for guidance with respect to PTSD regarding—

“(A) appropriate diagnostic and treatment methods;

“(B) referral for and coordination of followup care;

“(C) the evaluation of PTSD treatment programs;

“(D) the conduct of research concerning such diagnosis and treatment (taking into account the provisions of subsection (c));

“(E) special programs of education and training for employees of the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration (also taking into account such provisions);

“(F) the appropriate allocation of resources for all such activities; and

“(G) any specific steps that should be taken to improve such diagnosis and treatment and to correct any deficiencies in the operations of designated PTSD programs.

“(c) The Under Secretary for Health shall establish and operate in the Veterans Health Administration a National Center on Post-Traumatic-Stress Disorder. The National Center (1) shall carry out and promote the training of health care and related personnel in, and research into, the causes and diagnosis of PTSD and the treatment of veterans for PTSD, and (2) shall serve as a resource center for, and promote and seek to coordinate the exchange of information regarding, all research and training activities carried out by the Department, and by other Federal and non-Federal entities, with respect to PTSD.

“(d) The Under Secretary for Health shall regularly compile and publish the results of research that has been conducted relating to PTSD.

“(e)(1) Not later than March 1, 2000, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this section. The report shall include the following:

“(A) A list of the members of the Special Committee.

“(B) A list of all designated PTSD programs and other programs providing treatment for PTSD, together with a description of the resources that have been allocated for the development and operation of each such program, a description of the education and training that has been provided for Department health-care personnel in such programs and elsewhere within the Department in the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD, and specification of the funding that has been allocated to each such program and elsewhere within the Department to support research relating to PTSD.

“(C) The assessment of the Under Secretary for Health of the Department, after consultation with the Special Committee, regarding the capability of the Department to meet the needs for inpatient and outpatient PTSD diagnosis and treatment (both through designated PTSD programs and otherwise) of veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era, former prisoners of war, and other veterans eligible for health care from the Department and the efficacy of the treatment so provided, as well as a description of the results of any evaluations that have been made of PTSD treatment programs.

“(D) The plans of the Special Committee for further assessments of the capability of the Department to diagnose and treat veterans with PTSD.

“(E) The recommendations made by the Special Committee to the Under Secretary for Health and the views of the Under Secretary for Health on such recommendations.

“(F) A summary of the results of research conducted by the Department relating to PTSD.

“(G) A description of the steps taken, plans made (and a timetable for their execution), and resources to be applied to implement subsections (b) and (c).

“(H) The assessment of the Administrator [now Secretary] of the capacity of the Department to meet in all geographic areas of the United States the needs described in subparagraph (C) and any plans and timetable for increasing that capacity (including the costs of such action).

“(2) Not later than February 1, 2001, and May 1 of each year through 2016, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing information updating the reports submitted under this subsection since the enactment of the Veterans' Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act [Nov. 30, 1999].”

#### STUDY OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND OTHER POST-WAR PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Pub. L. 98-160, title I, §102, Nov. 21, 1983, 97 Stat. 994, as amended by Pub. L. 99-576, title II, §216, Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3259, directed Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to provide for the conducting of a comprehensive study of prevalence and incidence in population of Vietnam veterans of post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological problems of readjusting to civilian life and effects of such problems on such veterans and directed Administrator to submit to Committees on Veterans' Affairs of Senate and House of Representatives not later than Oct. 1, 1986, a report on results of study.

#### READJUSTMENT COUNSELING AND RELATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS OF WAR DECLARED AFTER JUNE 13, 1979

Pub. L. 96-22, title I, §103(b), June 13, 1979, 93 Stat. 50, as amended by Pub. L. 102-83, §§5(c)(2), 6(d), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406, 407, provided that: “In the event of a declaration of war by the Congress after June 13, 1979, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, not later than six months after the date of such declaration, shall determine and recommend to the Congress whether eligibility for the readjustment counseling and related mental health services provided for in section 1712A [formerly 612A] of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section) should be extended to the veterans of such war.”

#### § 1712B. Counseling for former prisoners of war

The Secretary may establish a program under which, upon the request of a veteran who is a former prisoner of war, the Secretary, within the limits of Department facilities, furnishes counseling to such veteran to assist such veteran in overcoming the psychological effects of the veteran's detention or internment as a prisoner of war.

(Added Pub. L. 99-166, title I, §107(a), Dec. 3, 1985, 99 Stat. 945, §612B; renumbered §1712B and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(a)(3), (4), (b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 612B of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” in two places.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), substituted “Department” for “Veterans' Administration”.

#### [§ 1713. Renumbered § 1781]

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1713 was renumbered section 3513 of this title.

**§ 1714. Fitting and training in use of prosthetic appliances; guide dogs; service dogs**

(a) Any veteran who is entitled to a prosthetic appliance shall be furnished such fitting and training, including institutional training, in the use of such appliance as may be necessary, whether in a Department facility or other training institution, or by outpatient treatment, including such service under contract, and including travel and incidental expenses (under the terms and conditions set forth in section 111 of this title) to and from such veteran's home to such hospital or training institution.

(b) The Secretary may provide guide dogs trained for the aid of the blind to veterans who are enrolled under section 1705 of this title. The Secretary may also provide such veterans with mechanical or electronic equipment for aiding them in overcoming the disability of blindness.

(c) The Secretary may, in accordance with the priority specified in section 1705 of this title, provide—

(1) service dogs trained for the aid of the hearing impaired to veterans who are hearing impaired and are enrolled under section 1705 of this title;

(2) service dogs trained for the aid of persons with spinal cord injury or dysfunction or other chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility to veterans with such injury, dysfunction, or impairment who are enrolled under section 1705 of this title; and

(3) service dogs trained for the aid of persons with mental illnesses, including post-traumatic stress disorder, to veterans with such illnesses who are enrolled under section 1705 of this title.

(d) In the case of a veteran provided a dog under subsection (b) or (c), the Secretary may pay travel and incidental expenses for that veteran under the terms and conditions set forth in section 111 of this title to and from the veteran's home for expenses incurred in becoming adjusted to the dog.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1143, § 614; Pub. L. 93-82, title I, § 103(b), Aug. 2, 1973, 87 Stat. 181; Pub. L. 94-581, title II, § 210(a)(5), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2862; Pub. L. 96-151, title II, § 201(c), Dec. 20, 1979, 93 Stat. 1093; renumbered § 1714 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§ 4(a)(3), (4), (b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406; Pub. L. 107-135, title II, § 201(a), (b)(1), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2456, 2457; Pub. L. 111-117, div. E, title II, § 229, Dec. 16, 2009, 123 Stat. 3307.)

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

Prior section 1714 was renumbered section 3514 of this title.

Provisions similar to those comprising subsec. (a) of this section were classified to section 613 of this title prior to repeal by section 103(b) of Pub. L. 93-82.

**AMENDMENTS**

2009—Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 111-117 added par. (3).

2002—Pub. L. 107-135, § 201(b)(1), substituted "guide dogs; service dogs" for "seeing-eye dogs" in section catchline.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-135, § 201(a)(1), struck out "seeing-eye or" after "may provide", substituted "who are enrolled under section 1705 of this title" for "who are entitled to disability compensation, and may pay

travel and incidental expenses (under the terms and conditions set forth in section 111 of this title) to and from their homes and incurred in becoming adjusted to such seeing-eye or guide dogs", and substituted "disability" for "handicap".

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 107-135, § 201(a)(2), added subsecs. (c) and (d).

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, § 5(a), renumbered section 614 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(3), (4), substituted "Department" for "Veterans' Administration".

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" in two places.

1979—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-151, § 201(c)(1), substituted provisions respecting travel and incidental expenses for provisions respecting necessary travel expenses.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96-151, § 201(c)(2), substituted provisions respecting travel and incidental expenses for provisions respecting all necessary travel expenses.

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-581, § 210(a)(5)(A), substituted "such veteran's home" for "his home".

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-581, § 210(a)(5)(B), substituted "and may pay" for "and he may pay".

1973—Pub. L. 93-82 designated existing provisions as subsec. (b) and added subsec. (a).

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-151 effective Jan. 1, 1980, see section 206 of Pub. L. 96-151, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-581 effective Oct. 21, 1976, see section 211 of Pub. L. 94-581, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective Sept. 1, 1973, see section 501 of Pub. L. 93-82, set out as an Effective Date of 1973 Amendment note under section 1701 of this title.

**§ 1715. Tobacco for hospitalized veterans**

The Secretary may furnish tobacco to veterans receiving hospital or domiciliary care.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1143, § 615; renumbered § 1715 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§ 4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406.)

**AMENDMENTS**

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, § 5(a), renumbered section 615 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator".

**USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES**

Pub. L. 102-585, title V, § 526, Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 4961, provided that:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take appropriate actions to ensure that, consistent with medical requirements and limitations, each facility of the Department described in subsection (b)—

"(1) establishes and maintains—

"(A) a suitable indoor area in which patients or residents may smoke and which is ventilated in a manner that, to the maximum extent feasible, prevents smoke from entering other areas of the facility; or

"(B) an area in a building that—

"(i) is detached from the facility;

"(ii) is accessible to patients or residents of the facility; and

"(iii) has appropriate heating and air conditioning; and

"(2) provides access to an area established and maintained under paragraph (1), consistent with med-